

Peaks of Otter Soil and Water Conservation District

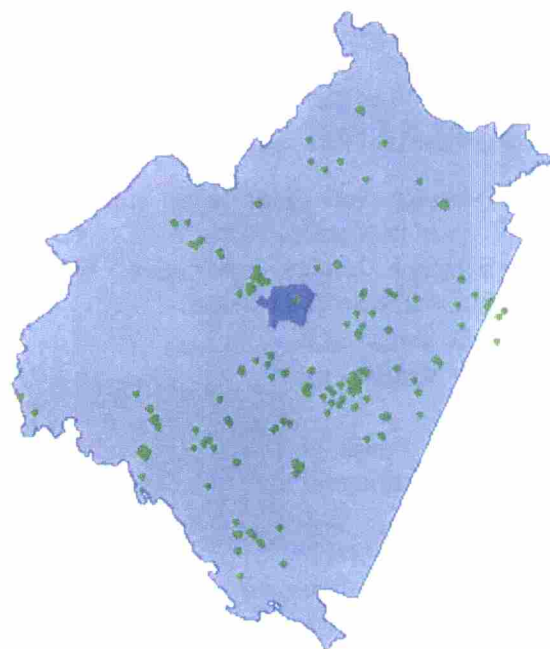
Annual Report FY 2008-2009

Peaks of Otter SWCD
1031 Turnpike Road Bedford, VA 24523
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Fax 540/586-4638
Web poswcd.com

"The Peaks of Otter Soil and Water Conservation District with its partners will provide leadership and education to sustain and utilize Bedford's natural resources in a manner that will enhance soil and water stewardship."

Cost-Share Programs

- During FY08-09, program participants installed over \$1.75 million in conservation practices under all programs.
- For installing these practices, the District reimbursed participants over \$585,000 in cost-share funds and issued Virginia tax credits totaling more than \$76,000.
- USDA contributed over \$740,000 in additional reimbursement for these installations.
- In total, 70 individuals participated in District cost-share programs, 46 of these were first time participants.



Legend

- Bedford County
- Bedford City
- Practices Installed

District Board meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of every month at the USDA Service Center at 6:00pm. Please call 540/586-9195 ext. 4 to confirm that meeting arrangements have not changed. All meetings are open to the general public.

District Highlights



- Grazing land protection practices, that include alternative livestock watering systems, were installed by 22 participants.

These practices excluded livestock from 3 miles of stream bank.

- Cover crops were planted on 1,251 acres of cropland by 10 participants.
- One participant converted 13 acres of cropland to permanent cover.

- Two animal waste control facilities were installed. One included a rainwater capture system that will utilize the captured water for cleanup and livestock drinking water.



(The center section of the building utilizes sawdust bedding that is turned daily. The bedding will be land applied as fertilizer.)

- Nutrient management plans were implemented on 1,069 acres by 4 participants.
- One participant implemented split fertilizer application on 256 acres of wheat.
- Two participants did critical area seeding on 5 acres.
- The District wrote 4 nutrient management plans covering 858 acres for area producers.
- Two participants were issued state tax credits for purchase of conservation tillage equipment.



- Through the **USDA's Conservation Reserve Program**, the District worked with 29 agricultural producers. These practices excluded livestock from 27 miles of stream bank. Within the buffer areas created, hardwood tree seedlings were planted on 89 acres and warm season grasses on 3 acres.



Big Otter River Water Quality

Improvement Program

Water Quality and TMDLs

A Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL describes the amount of pollution a stream can receive and still meet federal and state water quality standards. A program funded by a federal grant and administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is designed to reduce bacterial loading in the Big Otter River watershed. The District participates in this program through residential and agricultural cost-share assistance to citizens, and by conducting water monitoring of targeted streams.

Big Otter River Residential

Best Management Practices

Over \$66,000 in cost-share assistance was paid to 23 participants to correct failing residential septic systems. Highlights included:

- replacement of 14 failed drain fields
- Installation of septic systems to remove 5 straight pipes
- 4 septic system repairs

Connection to public sewer is one of the approved practices. Two of these were completed to correct septic system problems.



Big Otter River Agricultural

Best Management Practices

Over \$200,000 in cost-share assistance was paid to agricultural producers who implemented Best Management Practices on their farms. Funded by this program, 12 participants protected 9.5 miles of stream bank and excluded 986 animals from waterways.



Conservation Education

Through a combination of workshops, tours and school programs, hundreds of adults and youth have participated in conservation based activities.

Rain Barrel Workshop– Bedford Area Master Gardeners and the District assisted 40 participants with rain barrel construction and information on water conservation.



Demo Plot– This year, the District planted demonstration plots at their office that will provide the Bedford community a first-hand look at forested and warm season grass buffers.



Conservation Tour– The District sponsored a tour of Georgia Pacific, Claytor Nature Center and a session on conservation easements with Western Virginia Land Trust.



Bedford Family Farm Tour– The District booth was viewed by over 300 participants at Johnson's Orchard.

Contributions to Youth Education



4-H Day Camp– 4-H members learned about using technology to conserve natural resources at a recent trip to Dawn Dairy.

Youth Education Continued

Envirothon– The District sponsored the Liberty High School team in a competition to test their knowledge of natural resource management.

Earth Day– The District provided a ground-water demonstration and informative exhibit at Liberty High School for over 500 students.

Scholarship– The District awarded the \$1,000 Adams-Boone scholarship to Hannah Poole, a 2009 graduate of Staunton River High School.

Other District Activities

Haybuster No-till Sod Drills-



The District rented two drills to 32 Bedford agricultural producers who planted 1,448 acres.

Water Testing Clinic– The District financially supported ten tests in the drinking water clinic held by Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Water Quality Monitoring– District staff conduct monthly bacterial water monitoring using the Coliscan Easygel method.



Big Otter River Appreciation Cook-Out

The District invited key partners of the Big Otter River Restoration program to an outdoor gathering to show our appreciation for making the program a success.

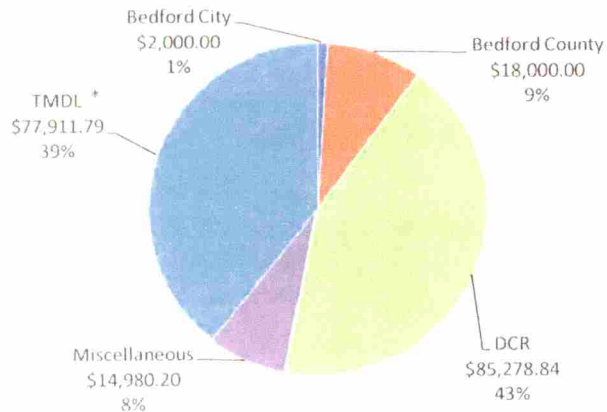


Training– District staff participates in ongoing professional development throughout the year. Training includes: nutrient management planning, agricultural waste management, BMP installation & program management, conservation planning, wildlife habitat conservation, pesticide use and application, invasive species management and stream habitat assessment.

Who We Are The Peaks of Otter SWCD is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia that serves both Bedford County and City, and is dedicated to the protection and wise use of soil and water resources. The District is one of 47 conservation districts across the Commonwealth.

Total District Operational Income for

FY08-09: \$198,171



* TMDL funds are used to support the Big Otter River Water Quality Improvement Program

Directors

Richard Chaffin, Chair
Tommy Watson, Vice Chair
Scott Baker, Director
Corey Crompton, Director
John Hopkins, Jr., Director
John Morris, Director
Denzil Barker, Associate Director
Homer Bauserman, Associate Director
John R. Dixon, Associate Director

The Directors serve without pay and contribute many volunteer hours during the year.

Staff

Terri Bollinger, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer
John Graham, TMDL Residential Technician
Elizabeth Watson, TMDL Conservation Technician
Gavin Sanderlin, District Manager/Conservation Specialist

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